

Message Text

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TAGS: PDEV PINT SHUM WA SF ZA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SHIPANGA STATEMENT ON NAMIBIAN PRISONERS IN
ZAMBIA

REF: STATE 223844, PRETORIA 5049

1. SHIPANGA'S CLAIM THAT 1800 NAMIBIANS ARE BEING HELD IN
THREE ZAMBIAN "CONCENTRATION CAMPS" IS PROBABLY BASED ON FACT
THAT APPROXIMATELY THAT MANY NAMIBIANS WERE DETAINED AT TIME
OF SHIPANGA'S CHALLENGE TO NUJOMA AND HIS SUBSEQUENT ARREST.
BOTH SWAPO AND THE ZAMBIANS MAINTAIN THAT THERE ARE NO
REPEAT NO NAMIBIANS NOW UNDER DETENTION IN ZAMBIA. THE 1800
WHO WERE ORIGINALLY DETAINED WERE GIVEN THE OPTION OF RETURNING
TO THE SWAPO FOLD OR OF BEING PLACED IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAMBIA.
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2. THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT CLASSES AS REFUGEES ONLY THOSE PER-
SONS WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE MEMBERS OF A RECOGNIZED
LIBERATION MOVEMENT. THUS THOSE NAMIBIANS WHO DECLINED TO
REJOIN SWAPO WERE MOVED TO THE MAJOR ZAMBIAN REFUGEE SETTLE-
MENT AT MAHEBA NEAR SOLWEZI IN NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE. MAHEBA
IS RUN BY THE ZAMBIA CHRISTIAN REFUGEE SERVICE (AFFILIATED TO

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION) AND THE COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES OF THE ZAMBIAN MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS. THE MAHEBA SETTLEMENT IS OPEN TO VISITORS AND A NUMBER OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE INSPECTED THE FACILITIES. WHILE IN A SENSE THE NAMIBIANS LOCATED THERE DO NOT HAVE COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, THEY CAN IN NO WAY BE CONSIDERED TO BE IN A "CONCENTRATION CAMP." THEY ARE TREATED AS ANY OTHER REFUGEES.

3. THERE ARE APPARENTLY A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF THE "FORMER" SWAPO DISSIDENTS LOCATED AT THE SO-CALLED SWAPO FARM AT NYANGO IN WESTERN PROVINCE. NYANGO IS THE MAJOR SWAPO REFUGEE CAMP WHICH ACCOMMODATES MAINLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME ACTIVITIES OF A MILITARY NATURE TAKING PLACE. NAMIBIANS FROM THE DISSIDENT GROUP NOW AT NYANGO PRESUMABLY ARE THOSE PERSONS WHO CHOOSE TO REJOIN SWAPO AND MEND THEIR ERRANT WAYS. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT THIS GROUP IS KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE MAJOR PART OF THE CAMP WHILE THEY ARE CONTINUING THEIR "RE-EDUCATION." IN THE PAST THERE HAVE BEEN VERY SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON VISITS BY NON-SWAPO PERSONNEL TO NYANGO. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS HAVE VISITED THE FARM, WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT SWAPO DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE, SUCH AS DISSIDENT PRISONERS.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAIN SWAPO MILITARY CAMP AT SENANGA WHICH IS ALSO LOCATED IN WESTERN PROVINCE. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, HEARD ANY REPORTS TO INDICATE THAT IS THE CASE. NOR HAVE WE HEARD OF ANYONE BEING ALLOWED TO VISIT THE CAMP.

5. SWAPO OFFICIALS RECENTLY TOLD CHARGE AND EMBOFF THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME AN INVESTIGATION OF SHIPANGA'S CHARGES REGARDING PRISONERS BY NEUTRAL OBSERVERS. THEY NOTED THAT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION WOULD ALSO HAVE TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES WHO IN THEORY CONTROL ACCESS TO THE SWAPO FACILITIES. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT AS FAR AS SWAPO WAS CONCERNED THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THAT NO NAMIBIANS ARE BEING DETAINED AGAINST THEIR WILL IN ZAMBIA. PRESUMABLY THE GRZ, THEREFORE, WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO AN IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION.

6. WHILE IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT SOME DISSIDENTS ARE BEING HELD IN ZAMBIA, WE DOUBT THAT THE NUMBER IS ANYWHERE NEAR 1800. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE ORIGINAL GROUP WHICH WAS DETAINED BY ZAMBIA ON SWAPO'S REQUEST HAVE EITHER REJOINED SWAPO, HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS REFUGEES, OR HAVE BEEN UNOFFICIALLY RELEASED. THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE

INFORMATION WOULD BE BY A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. WE WILL
CONTINUE TO TRY TO DEVELOP INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT FROM OUR
SOURCES.
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